Opposition to Sankhya Vahini Venture

2620. SHRI MD. SALIM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RSS gears up to oppose Sankhya Vahini Venture" as published in the'Statesmen' dated the 7th March, 2000; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction to various charges as reported in the news-item ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The available information does not provide any basis for substantiating the issues raised in the newspaper report.

Bangalore as Primary Hub for Sankhya Vahini

2621. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Sankhya Vahini is a joint venture project of the Telecom Department, Carnegie Mellon University, Indian Institute of Science and IITs ; and

(b) If so, whether Karnataka Government has requested to choose Bangalore as the "primary hub" of the Sankhya Vahini project on Internet connectivity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sankhya Vahini India Limited is a proposed joint venture between the Department of Telecom Services and IUNet, a subsidiary company incorporated by Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA as main promoters. It is also proposed that the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT) an educational institution in India, whose participation is approved by Ministry of HRD, may also participate in the Joint Venture Company.

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the proposed project, all the main stations in the country will be linked with High Speed Data Backbone which will include Bangalore as well.